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From: A. Randolph Blough *RI*
To: Brian Sheron, IP2 Comms_AIT_group *NRC*
Date: Thu, Mar 16, 2000 3:11 PM
Subject: research letter – on IP2 S/g's

Update ___ mike mayfield tells me that it's already publicly available and that it was done this way to support the idea of RES's independence in this matter

Today, thadani answered collins' request for assistance on IP2 S/G's with a memo that is slated to go to **PDR** and will make a giant splash when it does.

While it finds favorably about some aspects of the staff's actions, it is highly critical about the licensee's 1997 "operational assessment" (ie, look-ahead to the cycle ahead) which answered the staff RAI. **It calls Coned's 1997 assessment "weak and incomplete."**

Also, it is **highly critical of the NRC staff's safety evaluation**, essentially asserting that the staff's SE is not fully supportable by the licensee's submittal.

Finally, it concludes that RES, " believes that a more thorough operational assessment of these forms of degradation **would have predicted an increased probability of tube leakage** (emphasis added) or rupture by the end of cycle 14. "

This will be public as soon as ADAMS processes it. Marie is bringing copies around to key managers. I believe the Comms Team (or subgroup) needs to meet on an emergency basis to discuss our strategy for responding to stakeholder queries.

randy

CC: Hubert J. Miller, Jack Strosnider, James Wiggins

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